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April 4, 2012

Chair Ravel and Commissioners Eskovitz,  
Garrett, Montgomery, and Rotunda  
Fair Political Practices Commission  
428 J Street, Suite 600  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Agenda Item 17: Senate Bill 1001 – Lobbyist Registration Fee Adjustment (SPONSOR)**

Dear Chair Ravel and Commissioners,

On behalf of California Common Cause and our 400,000 national members, we are proud to be the sponsor of Senate Bill 1001, which would provide for a common sense increase in California's lobbying registration fees which have not been adjusted since the passage of the Political Reform Act of 1974. We urge the Commission to support this legislation.

Senate Bill 1001 would make two simple changes to the Political Reform Act: 1) increase lobbying registration fees from \$25 to \$50 per year; 2) authorize the Fair Political Practices Commission to make biennial cost-of-living-adjustments based on changes to the Consumer Price Index. These updates are essential to make sure the Political Reform Act remains effective in our current day.

With an increase to \$50 per year, California's lobbying registration fees will remain one of the lowest in the country. And despite the public's disgust with special interest influence on our government, California continues to have one of the highest numbers of state registered lobbyists. This fee will help pay for the maintenance of California's campaign and lobbying disclosure database, CAL-ACCESS, which remains in poor condition with outdated technology. CAL-ACCESS was unavailable for nearly a month in 2011 because of a massive system failure. The CAL-ACCESS crash left campaign committees, lobbying interests, media, and political watchdogs unable to obtain important documents which would have shined a light on money and influence in our political system.

We urge you to support this legislation that will update California lobbying registration fees and support the state's online disclosure database.

Sincerely,

Phillip Ung  
Policy Advocate

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